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Funding Will Be Used to Purchase New Equipment, Enhance Predoctoral Training in Primary Care

WASHINGTON, DC-Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) announced that Bassett Medical Center, an acute care inpatient teaching facility in Cooperstown, has been awarded a \$251,273 federal grant to help strengthen and expand their health workforce. The funding, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), will go towards the purchase of new equipment to be used primarily in training primary care physicians.

"This Recovery Bill funding will provide Bassett with additional resources and equipment in order to train tomorrow's health care professionals," **said Arcuri**. "This investment will equip Bassett with new training capabilities to increase the number of medical students learning, and subsequently practicing, in our rural communities which are historically underserved."

"This new equipment represents current best practices in medical education and is widely available to medical students in larger, urban specialty-oriented programs," notes **Dr. Henry Weil**, head of the Columbia-Bassett medical school program and Columbia's assistant dean for education at Bassett. "Having this technology available for training on our Cooperstown campus keeps us cutting edge and helps assure our students a top-notch education. It contributes to an overall positive experience that will increase the likelihood they will stay and enter a residency or continue their training in an underserved area."

Bassett will use the funding to purchase a SimMan 3 G, Harvey cardiopulmonary patient simulator, Virtual I.V., a laptop ultrasound unit, and a Zoll Defibrillator. It is estimated that medical student use will increase from 20 students in the 2010-11 academic year to 50 students per year by 2014-15. Other trainees include Bassett's residents in Internal Medicine, Primary Care or General Surgery and nursing students. Additionally, a significant number of Bassett's

250 physicians, 550 nurses, 150 mid-level providers and various allied health professionals will utilize the new equipment for individual or interdisciplinary team training, ensuring that Bassett's patients continue to receive the highest quality of care.

The Equipment to Enhance Training for Health Professions Training Programs (EETHP) provides federal funding for the purchase of health professions training equipment under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill). These grants are offered to educational institutions which serve underserved and uninsured patient populations, rural communities, and minorities.

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